Uniform power tariff throughout the country is not envisaged.

One of the objectives of the draft policy is to ensure availability of electricity to consumers at reasonable rates.

Package for rural electrification to Uttar Pradesh

†3675. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Uttar Pradesh have sought special financial package from Government for providing electricity in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to provide special financial package to the Government of Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, by when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) A new scheme "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" for Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification has been launched on 4th April, 2005 for the attainment of the National Common Minimum Programme of providing access to electricity to all Rural Households in five years.

Under this scheme 90% Capital subsidy would be provided for:

(i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with one 33/11KV (or 66/11 KV) substation in every block appropriately linked to the State Transmission System.

(ii) Creation of Village Electricity Infrastructure (VEI) for electrification of all un-electrified villages/habitations with distribution transformers(s) in very village/Habitation.

(iii) Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply System from conventional sources for Villages/Habitations where grid supply is not cost effective and where Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources would not be providing electricity through their programme(s).

The scheme provides for electrification of all un-electrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in the country free of charge.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The scheme covers the entire country and funds would be provided for electrification of un-electrified villages and un- electrified habitations.

This scheme merges the scheme of "Accelerated Electrification of One lakh villages and one crore households" under which there was a provision for about 40% capital subsidy for eligible projects. Under the earlier scheme, based on the proposals submitted by the States of UP, 62 districts based project, covering 30802 villages, 12, 58,844 rural households including 7,99,417 BPL households involving a total outlay of Rs. 2,291.4 crore had been sanctioned in 2004-05.

Forming a Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone

3676. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formed a Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone to create infrastructure in rural areas for power distribution;

(b) if so, the details of the REDB;

(c) whether the REC will funds this new entity;

(d) what are the specific technical objectives of the REDB; and

(e) the details of States where REDB be implemented first?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SYEED): (a) to (e) A new scheme "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" for Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification has been launched for the attainment of the National Common Minimum Programme of providing access to electricity to all Rural Households in five years. The scheme would be implemented through Rural Electrification Corporation.

Under this scheme 90% Capital subsidy would be provided for projects for:

(i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with one 33/11KV (or 66/11 KV) substation in every block appropriately linked to the State Transmission System.

(ii) Creation of Village Electricity Instrastructure (VEI) for electrification of all un-electrified villages/habitations with distribution transformers(s) of appropriate capacity in every village/habitation.

(iii) Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply System from Central sources for Villages/Habitations where grid supply is not cost effective and where Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources would not be providing electricity through their programme(s).